

SANTA FE WEEKLY GAZETTE.

"Independent in all things—Neutral in nothing."

JAMES L. COLLINS, Editor.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 22, 1856.

MASS MEETING.

We are authorized to state that arrangements are being made by the citizens of Santa Fe, and the officers at counties, to hold a mass meeting at the court house in this city immediately after the arrival of the mail from the States, provided we receive the news of the election of Mr. Buchanan to the Presidency. All classes of our citizens who favor the election of Mr. Buchanan, and Mr. Breckinridge, will be expected to attend. A further notice will be given after the mail arrives, with a programme of the arrangements.

THE MAIIS—INCREASED SERVICE.

Perhaps the fact that we in New Mexico are compelled to wait in suspense since two months after the event before receiving any intelligence of the result of the late Presidential election, is as suggestive as anything we could cite of the sad deficiency in our communications. The result of that election will be known throughout Europe, perhaps throughout the entire civilized world before we in this Territory are advised of it. Had the election occurred a week earlier, the result would have been known here a month sooner, even with our present inadequate mail arrangements, but with the improvements that we shall suggest the result would have reached us still earlier.

There is certainly no other part of the United States where the same number of inhabitants have so few mail facilities as are allowed to this Territory, and we have stipulated of having justice done us in this particular by the present Postmaster General; for the subject has been so often urged upon his attention, that we are compelled to believe that he acts from a fixed determination not to do us justice; and we can only hope that the Postmaster General, under the coming administration, will do for us, that which has been so very strongly withheld by the present incumbent.

The increase that we propose, and that we hope will be urged upon the department by our delegate, Mr. Ciero, is to give us a weekly mail from Santa Fe to Fort Union, the same as is now established from Independence to Council Grove, and between Fort Union and Council Grove, a mail every two weeks.

This arrangement would enable the stages to make the trip from Council Grove to Fort Union, in eleven to twelve days, shut in, leave the Grove on the first, and reach Fort Union on the eleventh, remain until the fifteenth, and return to the Grove, where they would arrive on the twenty sixth. Thus giving three to five days, at each end of the route to rest the stock. This arrangement would not increase the number of stages to be run on the main part of the line, above the number now used.

In addition to this increase, we should have a weekly mail from Santa Fe to Fort Union, to connect with a bi-monthly mail from San Antonio, Texas.

We are induced to believe that the comparative importance of the two lines of mail stages that now run to this Territory, is not understood at Washington, and this may perhaps have had some influence with the Postmaster General, in causing him to withhold from us that which is certainly our due in the mail arrangements of the country.

We have no wish to underrate the importance of the southern line, but it certainly does not compare in usefulness with the one from Independence. It is by the latter that we receive at least four fifths of our mail matter, and the travel would perhaps rate in about the same proportion; yet at the late session of Congress, the contractors, on both the lines, were given an increase of compensation making their pay double the amount of the first contract, this was no doubt just and proper, but it would have been quite as just and important to have added an increase of service with it.

That a weekly mail hence to Fort Union is called for no one acquainted with the subject can for a moment doubt; it would obviate the necessity of the present system of military express, and save the wear and tear of horses which would be almost equal to the cost of carrying mail. We understood when in Washington last summer, that the proposition to give us a weekly mail to Fort Union, was under advisement by the Postmaster General, and that one of our officials, who was then in the city, told the Postmaster General that it was not necessary. If this is true, we think the gentleman was transmogrifying his prerogatives, it is no part of his duty to regulate our mail arrangements, and he should not have interfered in the matter, and we think no one of modest pretensions would have done so.

The plan that we have sketched above would give us a mail every two weeks, to and from the States, which is no more than our necessities demand. It is true that we have now two monthly mails, but under the present arrangement of simultaneous arrivals and departures they are in effect only one. It would be better for one to arrive and depart on the 15th, and the other on the first, as was the case when the lines were first established.

We will in conclusion, again recommend the subject to our delegate, Mr. Ciero, with the assurance that he can confer no greater favor on his constituents, than to secure the adoption of the above plan, or some other, that will give us a like amount of mail service.

CALLED TERM OF THE DISTRICT COURT.

We are requested to state that Judge Davenport has ordered a special term of the district court for the county of Santa Fe, to commence on the 15th day of December next, for the trial of criminal cases.

This is highly proper, not only for the purpose of bringing to a speedy trial the offenders against the law, but it will dispose of all the criminal cases, so that the regular term can be appropriated to the trial and disposition of civil suits, which were at the last term crowded over by the great number of criminal cases on the dockets.

We are sorry to believe that our courts of justice are too much in the habit of treating criminals arraigned at the bar for trial with a deference and consideration to which a violation of the law has no claim.

It is a misplaced sympathy that is calculated to degrade the bench, and destroy all reverence for the law; and that often influences the juries in awarding punishment for the commission of crime. The position of a criminal at the bar, is a position of extreme disgrace, and should be felt to be so, especially when the charge is for murder. The stronger this impression is cast upon the public mind the more will others try to shun and avoid a similar position; and only thus, the disgrace attending the position of the criminal is a wholesome part of the punishment for the violation of law. A proper regard for the public morals requires that the Judge should give the authority of his office to the stern condemnation of crime, rather than seek to diminish its repulsiveness. Nor should the officious occupying a respectable position in society, meet with more sympathy, or mitigation than the ignorant and humble. The very fact that he has character and position should stimulate stronger motives to avoid the commission of crime, and his culpability is greater in proportion to his ignorance and knowledge. The number of convictions at the last term of the district court for this county was probably as great as should have been expected, but the penalties awarded, in severer of the cases, were certainly not in proportion to the magnitude of the crimes.

The influence of the courts should be exercised, in all cases to secure an appropriate measure of punishment to the criminal, the juries may sometimes be improperly influenced, the Judge should never be, and his charge and instructions to the jury are intended to prepare their minds to render a just and impartial verdict, according to the law and the evidence.

NEWS FROM BENT'S FORT.

From Mr. Larkin who arrived in town a few days since from Bent's Fort, on the Arkansas, we learn that a difficulty had occurred with Mr. Bent, the proprietor of the Fort, and a party of Kiowa Indians, which was likely to terminate very seriously. It seems that Bent after his return from the States, found it necessary to discharge one of his men. As this man was a friend of the Kiwas they took his part, and one of the chiefs used insulting language to Bent in reference to his discharge, for which he was chastised, this aroused the whole party, and but for the Chyennes, who came to the assistance of Bent, he would in all probability have been killed, and his property destroyed.

In the difficulty which occurred between the parties, one of the Kiwas was shot, this served to exacerbate them still further, until the quarrel became so serious as to induce Mr. Bent to despatch the greater portion of his goods to the town of Mora in Taos county, for security. He also sent to Fort Union for soldiers to protect him in making his retreat from the Indian country. Mr. Larkin left the Fort with the wagons that brought in Bent's goods. From Mr. Joseph Doyle, we learn, that after the departure of Mr. Larkin, the Chyennes made an attack on a party of Kiwas and took from them forty head of horses, and drove the Indians off to the south. From the last accounts the Chyennes had started in pursuit of another party of Kiwas with the avowed intention of wiping them out.¹

Mr. Doyle who is well acquainted with the Indians of the plains, thinks it will be very unsafe for small parties of traders to attempt to cross the plains in the spring; this we understand is also the opinion of Mr. Bent, than whom perhaps no one has more knowledge of the Indians. It is certainly time the government had taken some steps to protect our traders against those Indians; they seem to have lost all respect for our people, and unless they are chastised and made to fear the power of the government, we had as well surrender the peaceful occupation of the plains to them, and give up all communication with our friends in the States.

THE PLACER MINES.

Messrs. Carey and Whilson have just returned from the mines and inform us that the "Confederate Mining Company" have their quartz mill nearly completed, and expect to be in full operation in the course of four weeks. They have labored under great disadvantage—not being able to obtain mechanics in this Territory, to render them the proper assistance, and consequently the work has been much retarded. One of the proprietors Mr. Julian Gamache appears to possess much genius, and an excellent capacity for the work undertaken by the Com-

pany, and labors himself with great zeal and energy, having full confidence in the eventful success of the company. He appears to be one of those self-made men fitted for an undertaking of this character, and the company anticipates by his exertions and energy that they will realize a rich return for their labor.

The agent, Mr. Eugene Leitendrofer was kind and attentive, and accompanied them to the mine, where they were shown a considerable quantity of the ore already extracted, and ready for crushing. This ore appears to be easily pulverized and the gold easily extracted.

The building for the machinery is one of the best in the country, an immense amount of labor having been bestowed upon it, to make it answer the purpose for which it was designed. Great credit must be given to Mr. Leitendrofer for the agent, and to Mr. Gamache for their energy in attempting to develop the mineral resources of New Mexico.

The "Philadelphia mining Compa." of which Mr. Idler is the agent, have, at considerable expense, brought out a crushing machine of about 35 horse power, but by some unforeseen occurrence it has not been yet erected. We trust that this machine will soon be in successful operation, and from the known experience of Mr. Idler and assistants we are satisfied that the company will prosper under their administration.

As these mines are but twenty seven miles from Santa Fe, and can be reached over a rural country, bounding in romantic scenes, we think it would repay our citizens to pay them a visit, and judge for themselves.

MILITARY NEWS.

About the 9th inst. a party of Mexicans under Don Pedro Armijo, was on the Rio Grande, twenty miles from Albuquerque, when sixteen or a dozen Navajo Indians took from him about thirty head of mares and horses, all of which were, however, recovered except two horses and two mares. The Navajo Indians followed, and it was ascertain'd to be the band under the command of the chief Archutia, who is on the San Juan, and who has been so troublesome for the last twelve months.

General Armijo was at Abiquiu on Saturday last, and he appeared very anxious to get authority to pursue with armed parties, the rovers, for the recovery of his stock, by force.

It is presumed such authority exists in this territory, that of self defense.

Major Nichols and Capt. Easton returned from Albuquerque on the 19th inst., with four old ducks and geese, the product of their hunting excursion.

Col. Bonneville and Maj. Thornton returned on the 20th inst., from their tour of inspection. They visited Canyonon Burgoon, Fort Union, and Hatch's Rancho, each of which they found in good order and the troops in comfortable quarters.

The Col. was highly pleased with the valley of Taos, and other parts of the Territory which he visited. The corn crop was abundant everywhere, which would more than supply the deficit in rather a short crop of wheat harvested the past summer.

Col. Bonneville found the roads over which he traveled in nearly an impassable condition, especially from this city to Taos, and from Fort Union here.

Appropriations have been long since made by the general Government, for the improvement and repair of both these roads, and it is curiously strange that the work has not been commenced; they are much important for the transportation of military stores, and their improvement should not be so long delayed. We hope Col. Bonneville will call the attention of the Secretary of War to this subject.

The Railroad to the Pacific.

We alluded sometime ago to a bill providing for the construction of railroads to the Pacific, reported by Mr. Denver of California a short time before the adjournment of Congress. We find a synopsis of this bill in the Missouri Republican, which we publish below. It will be seen that the plan of road proposed is on a magnificent scale, too much so we fear for its speedy accomplishment.

The absolute necessity for a railroad to the Pacific, is such that all the rival political parties of the country, have declared for it, and urged upon the government the adoption of some plan for its commencement. To this expression of the several parties in favor of this great work, may be added the universal concurrence of the people from all sections of the Union; and more than this, the country demands it.

The plan proposed in this bill, is intended we suppose, to quiet all sectional preference; this it may do, but it would seem strange, however, that a work so important to the interests of the country should be delayed on account of petty sectional jealousies.

The route proposed in this bill, to commence at Springfield, in Missouri, in place of terminating on the road from Texas to San Francisco, should be run so as to intersect the parallel of thirty-five west of the Rio Grande, and thence by that parallel through the mountain region. This would place the main trunk from the Atlantic cities along the Ohio and Mississippi road, by Cincinnati, St. Louis, Springfield, and thereby near a direct line to the proposed intersection with the parallel of thirty-five west of the Rio Grande. If the reader will trace this route upon a good map of the United States, he will find that it is more direct, and more central than any other upon the continent, and consequently can be more easily intersected from either the north or the south.

In addition to its being more central and direct, it lies upon the best ground for the construction of a railroad, and is better supplied with wood and water than any route south of it. Coal is also known to exist in many parts along nearly the entire distance, and there would be no interruption from the snows of winter. There are certain important considerations in selecting a route for this road which should not be overlooked. But to the ex-

tract. So the extension of the railroad from Saint Joseph to Fort Kearney extends to St. Louis, by means of the North Missouri Railroad and the Hannibal and St. Joseph Railroad, the trade and travel of the wholly Platte River Valley, whether the Railroad from Fort Kearney West to San Francisco is ever built or not.

And a grant of twenty sections of land per mile to the South West Branch (as we now know, from recent explorations,) that good land is found along the route of at least four hundred miles,) will secure the early construction of the road to New Mexico. The well watered country lying in south east Kansas, and the west of Arkansas, and south west Missouri, covers in extent, two fertility, Illinois and Missouri. Of the numerous wealth and the trade of New Mexico, Colorado, and Sonora—which this road would command—it is not necessary to speak in a community like this. The rich, well watered country adjacent to our own State, will quickly have a population which will furnish production and consume goods to an amount equal to all the productions now sent to and from St. Louis. If this anticipation is well realized, the construction of this great railroad to the fertile regions lying to the south west of us, would be most amply justified.

We shall publish in their order, all the reports upon this great subject.

To the adverse report of Mr. Kidwell, of Virginia, we shall invite special attention. He has availed himself of the statements of Col. Benton, to endeavor to prove that no road to the Pacific can be feasible. We trust our engineers, and experienced railroad men, will employ the time between this and next December to refute, to the complete satisfaction of all reasonable men, the report of Mr. Kidwell, and the absurd assertions of Col. Benton upon which the report is founded.

The following paragraphs will elucidate the conclusions of a speech delivered by the Hon. John Bell of Tennessee, to the Senate of the United States on the Kansas question.

Our dear citizens all view this momentous question in the same light; there would be no longer a difficulty in settling it.

"I hold it to be a most preposterous, and vicious game, in which the party who wins most eventually wins more than it gains.—Society's slavery continues as it was, now, at any time, & in any way, the best, & can be devised; whatever sect it may have a triumph, there will remain, on the side of the vanquished, a deep and rankling feeling of discontent and alienation, and a whole generation must pass away before they will cease to mar, to some extent, the general harmony. On the question whether Kansas shall be a free or a slave State, a representative of southern interests, my predecessor of course, is for a slave State. But, say, if in fair competition it not be so, let it be a free State. Let it be re-annexed to the Indians, the aboriginal occupants of the soil; let it become another Delawar, rather than continue the pestilential source of mortal disease to our system."

DEATH.

We have seldom met any thing more beautiful and touching than the following few words, on the subject of death, which we clip from an exchange.

Volumes might be read on the same subject and we would not be more solemnly impressed with a belief in our immortality, than we are from reading the few words uttered by the "Death-Invited Green."²

Men seldom think of the great event of death until the shadow falls across their own path, bidding forever from their eyes the traces of the loved ones whose loving smiles was the sunlight of their existence. Death is the greatest antagonist of life, and the cold thought of the tomb is the skeleton of all flesh. We do not want to go through the dark valley, although its passage may be to paradise, and with Charles Lamb, we do not want to lie down in the muddy grave, even with kings and princes for our bed fellows. But the fist of nature is inexorable. There is no appeal or relief from the great law which dooms us to dust. We flourish and fade as the leaves of the forest; and the flower that blooms and withers in a day, has not a firmer hold on life than the mightiest monarch that ever shook the earth with his footsteps. Generations of men appear and vanish as the grass, and the countless multitude that throngs the world today, will to-morrow disappear as the foot print on the shore.

In the beautiful drama of life, the instinct of immortality so eloquently uttered by the death-devoted Greek, finds a deep response in every thoughtful soul. When about to yield his young existence as a sacrifice to fate, his beloved Cælestis asks if they shall not meet again, to which he replies:

"I have asked that dreadful question of the hills that look eternal; of the flowing streams that flow forever; of the stars among whose sides of azure my raised spirit hath walked to glory. All were dumb. But while I gazed upon the living face, I feel there's something in the love that mingles through its beauty that cannot wholly perish. We shall meet again, Cælestis."

NOTICE.

Notice is hereby given, that letters of administration, executed, late of Santa Fe County, Territory of New Mexico, were granted to the undersigned, by the Judge of the Probate Court of said county, bearing date 19th November 1856. All persons having claims against said estate are required to exhibit them for allowance to the undersigned, within one year after the date of said letters, or they may be precluded from any benefit of said estate; and if such claims be not exhibited within three years from the date of said letters, they shall be forever barred.

CHARLES LEROUGE,
Administrator.